

CONNAUGHT BROWN

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Baltasar Lobo: The Feminine Form

11th September – 9th October, 2014



Baltasar Lobo, *Jeune fille à genoux* (1968-1982), bronze, 16 1/2 x 8 1/4 x 7 7/8 in, 42 x 21 x 20cm

This exhibition will focus on Baltasar Lobo's lifelong fascination with the feminine form. Through drawings and sculpture it will present Lobo's treatment of the theme, from his mother and child motif to his increasingly abstracted sculptures of the sensuous female nude.

After attending art school in Madrid, Lobo fled to Paris in 1939 following the Spanish Civil War. He immediately found his place within the School of Paris, a vibrant group of international artists who lived and worked in Montmartre and Montparnasse. Here Lobo established close friendships with Jacques Lipchitz, Pablo Picasso and Henri Laurens, for whom he worked as an assistant in his studio.

In 1946 Lobo first began to explore the theme of motherhood. Through a series of drawings and paintings, an important selection of which will be featured in this exhibition, he celebrated the joyous bond between mother and infant. In the curvilinear forms of these figures his admiration for Laurens' organic volumes is evident. Like Laurens, he also sought to express sensuality through elegant sculptures of the female nude. Characteristic of his work in bronze, *Jeune fille à genoux* is finished with an extraordinary patina, creating a flawless surface reminiscent of smooth and supple skin.

Like Jean Arp, Constantin Brancusi and Joan Miró, whose work he saw first-hand in Paris, Lobo also used the contours of the female form as a means of exploring abstraction. By reducing the figure to its most simplified components, he conveyed perfect balance, form and femininity. Like many modernists of the day, he also made reference to 'primitive' art forms and was particularly drawn to Iberian sculpture in his experimentations with abstraction.

Lobo's work is found in museums around the world including the City Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the Centro d'Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid and the Tokyo National Museum. He was awarded the Spanish National Prize for Sculpture in 1984. This is the third solo exhibition of Lobo's work at Connaught Brown, following on from *Baltasar Lobo* in 2004 and *Lobo: Sculptures and Drawings* in 2001. Since 2004, when Lobo was relatively unknown in the UK and USA, the market for his work has increased substantially and is currently very strong.

For more information and images please contact Ruth Millington at art@connaughtbrown.co.uk